

Concept Note

Background:

Issues related to effective Land Governance remain at the centre of development challenges in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV) and thus it is essential for governments in the region to turn their attention to associated practical, legal and policy issues. Within this context, the Mekong Region Land Governance Programme (MRLG) project since 2014, has been working with FAO and a broad range of partners to contribute to improved land governance policy and practice.

The MRLG project is currently in transition between the completion of its first Phase 1 (June 2018) and the commencement of Phase 2 (July 2018). Key findings from the recently concluded End of Phase 1 Review identified that continuing government engagement will be essential if MRLG is to achieve its stated aims and objectives towards improved land governance policy and practice during Phase 2.

With the specific focus on 'policy influencing' for Phase 2 and the joint activities with FAO, and with the dual objective of exposure to the wider land governance debate and the provision of an opportunity to share knowledge and learning, MRLG and FAO will be co-hosting the Second Regional Land Forum.

Objectives:

The central goal of the Regional Land Forum is to provide a multi-stakeholder platform for networking and dialogue on land governance issues specifically related to responsible agricultural investment and customary tenure. It is perceived (and was the case during the first forum) that as a regional conversation the sensitivities that lie at country level are more openly discussed.

Specific Objectives:

1. Bring together land governance stakeholders in the Region to showcase knowledge products and success stories, solutions and results;
2. Facilitate an exclusive round table policy dialogue on large-scale land investments and customary tenure recognition issues with stakeholders presenting main issues and pointing to key debate topics.

Targeted audience:

Influence and technical understanding: Aiming at promoting analysis and action, a balance was sought between political and technical levels, providing a sound basis of technically knowledgeable people and those who have the political influence to foster change.

Stakeholder group distribution: The participants will be representatives from governmental institutions at national and local levels dealing with land issues, civil society organizations, representatives of academia, private sector and development agencies.

Outputs:

1) Thematic panels with related supporting documents prepared, presented and shared in two main areas:

a. Securing customary tenure systems

b. Fostering responsible agricultural land-based investment

2) Knowledge and experiences sharing among participating countries fostered

3) Key constraints and issues identified and discussed

4) Set of priority actions for improved land governance identified and agreed

5) Meeting report outlining the outcomes and recommendations produced

Donor support:

FAO activities in the Mekong subregion are supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The Mekong Region Land Governance (MRLG), is a project of the Government of Switzerland, through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), with co-financing from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Government of Luxembourg. The MRLG project is implemented by Land Equity International (LEI) in partnership with Group de Recherche et d' Echanges (GRET) and supported by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

PROGRAMME

Dates: 28-30 May 2018 (3 days)

Venue: Avani Riverside Hotel - Bangkok, Thailand

DAY	SESSION		Audience	Presenters
May 27	<i>Evening cocktail reception with officials.</i>			
18:00 – 20:00				
May 28				
08:00 – 11:00	Present key results of State of Land Report to government officials. Q&A, facilitated discussion.		Senior officials only	Swiss representative CDE and partners
08:00 – 11:00	General Registration / Networking / Poster displays		All	MRLG & FAO
11:00 – 12:00	Opening statements Launch of the State of Land Report and Policy Briefs on Customary Tenure		All	Swiss representative, FAO, MRLG CDE and partners
12:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>		<i>All</i>	
14:00 – 16:00	Present results of the State of Land sections including land indicators (Panel Discussion)		All	CDE and partners
16:00 – 18:00	Donor-Implementer Speed Dating Poster exhibition and networking		All	Open floor Donors / Partners
May 29				
08.30 – 10:00	Parallel Thematic Sessions 1		All	FAO / MRLG
10.30 – 12.15	Parallel Thematic Sessions 2		All	Specific presenter panels
12.15 – 1.45	<i>Lunch</i>		<i>All</i>	
13.45-15.30	Parallel Thematic Sessions 3	Academic Exchange	Master Class: Conflict Transformation	Specific presenter panels, GIZ, RCSD & IMG
16:00 – 17:30	Panel Session on Gender and Land	Academic Exchange	Master Class: Conflict Transformation	Specific presenter panels, GIZ, RCSD & IMG

18:30 – 21:30	Gala dinner	All	MRLG/FAO
May 30			
08.30 – 10.15	Parallel Thematic Sessions 4	All	Specific presenter panels
10.30 – 11.30	Panel Session – <i>Presentation on the unfolding of the private sector vs community negotiation, Cambodia</i>	All	Panel of negotiation perspectives.
11.30 – 12:00	Closing Remark	All	MRLG, FAO
12:00	Lunch	All	

Parallel Session Topics

Tuesday 29 th May					
Session 1 Day 2: 08.30am - 10.00am	SDGs and VGGTs, access to land and an explanation of SDGs 1.4.2, 5.1a.	Ethnic minority and vulnerable groups access to forests: discussing the continuing threat to livelihoods	Responsible Investors in the Mekong: safeguarding tenure rights		
Session 2 Day 2: 10:45am-12:30pm	Public participation in policy making	Customary Tenure Discussion Notes	Private Sector partnerships and platforms		
Session 3 Day 2: 1.45pm -3.30pm	Land distribution and reform	Community empowerment approaches	Tools for responsible investment in Agriculture.	Conflict Sensitive Program Management Master Class	Academic Session with Masters and Graduate Students
Plenary Day 2: 4pm – 5.30pm	Land Governance and Gender Issues (panel)				
Wednesday 30th May					
Session 4 Day 3: 8.30am – 10.15 am	Land management and monitoring conflict	Strategies for the recognition of customary tenure	Forest Governance and International Initiatives		

Further details and all presentations will be made available on the wikispace:

<http://mekongplatformlearning.wikispaces.com/Regional%20Land%20Forum%2028-30%20May%202018>